

# **Mount Vernon Police Ledger**

## **July 2008**

### **FOURTH OF JULY SAFETY**

With warm weather and family events, the Fourth of July can be a fun time with great memories. But before your family celebrates this year, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety. If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burn and eye injuries in children and adults. There were 9,200 fireworks injuries treated in hospital emergency departments in 2006, and 11 deaths linked to fireworks. The best thing you can do to protect your child is not to use any fireworks at home - period. Attend public fireworks displays, and leave the lighting to the professionals.

- Children should never play with fireworks. Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give your child a sparkler, make sure your child keeps it outside and away from the face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can reach 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit (982 degrees Celsius) - hot enough to melt gold.
- Buy only legal fireworks (legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are unlabeled), and store them in a cool, dry place. Illegal fireworks usually go by the names M-80, M100, blockbuster, or quarterpounder. These explosives were banned in 1966, but still account for many fireworks injuries.
- Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose nearby in case of accidents.
- Steer clear of others - fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.



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# Fourth of July Safety

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- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket - the friction could set them off.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush and leaves and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and **never** relight a dud.
- Don't allow your child to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep your pet indoors to reduce the risk that the pet will run loose or get injured.

If your child is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, don't allow your child to touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention - your child's eyesight may depend on it. If it's a burn, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your child's doctor immediately.

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast!



Be cautious of lighting any fireworks during strong wind conditions. The fireworks should be lit with the prevailing wind blowing away from the spectators. If there is a significant wind shift during the time you are lighting the fireworks, the shooting site should be rearranged to accommodate the wind shift or the shooting should be stopped until the windy conditions subside.

# Firework Laws

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Many consumer fireworks are not available for sale in Northern Virginia because they are illegal. Aerial shells, firecrackers, cherry bombs, roman candles, and skyrockets are just a few examples. These fireworks are often purchased in other localities and are the most common types associated with fireworks related injuries.

Because of the potential hazards to persons and property, the County Fire Marshal strictly regulates fireworks in Fairfax County and the towns of Clifton, Herndon and Vienna. Moreover, in accordance with the Fairfax County Fire Prevention Code, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to transport, manufacture, store, possess, sell, offer for sale, expose for sale or to buy, use, ignite or explode any fireworks in these localities. There are, however, exceptions permitting the retail sale and use of certain approved fireworks, commonly known as consumer fireworks (Division 1.4G). Consumer fireworks legally permitted for retail sale and use in Fairfax County are known as permissible fireworks, the subject of this publication.

**F-3308.1.2 Permissible fireworks**. Permissible fireworks shall have a hard coated or slow burning fuse at least 1.5 inches long with a burning rate of not less than 4 seconds. Such permissible fireworks shall be used only on private property with the approval of the owner. Any fireworks which explode or emit flame or spark to a distance greater than 12 feet or perform as a projectile or have a quick match fuse are prohibited. The sale or storage of any fireworks shall be prohibited on the property of another without the express written permission of the owner. The sale of fireworks to minors shall be prohibited unless the minor is accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or responsible adult.

**F-3308.13 Seizure and destruction of certain fireworks**. Any Fire Marshal or law enforcement officer encountering fireworks in violation of the Code shall seize such fireworks and shall hold such until final disposition of any criminal procedures related to the violation. If any person is found guilty of any violation of this Chapter, then the court shall order destruction of such articles upon expiration of the time allowed for appeal for such conviction.

**F-3308.13.1 Criminal proceedings**. Where no criminal proceedings can be instituted due to lack of knowledge as to who owns or is responsible for the fireworks, the fireworks in question shall be destroyed after 30 days.

Any additional questions may be addressed to the Fire Marshal's Office by calling 703-246-4856. A list of approved fireworks for 2008 may be viewed on the fire departments web site, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire), under Fire Marshal.

# Crossing Guards Needed

Being a crossing guard is a very important job. A crossing guard makes sure students cross the street safely and keep an eye on strangers in the area. In essence you are our extended eyes and ears for the community. When there is not a crossing guard to work a mandated crossing location a police officer has to handle the crossing. There can be 4 to 5 crossings a day that the police have to handle. This means there are fewer officers to handle calls, which causes the response time to critical incidents to be longer.

Please call the Mount Vernon station if you are interested in becoming a crossing guard. This is another great opportunity for you to help out in the communities and get paid doing it.

**WE WANT YOU TO BE ON  
OUR TEAM!**



Captain Mike Kline  
Commander, Mount  
Vernon District Station

## **What do Crossing Guards Do?**

Work 10 hours per week. Control traffic to ensure the safe and orderly movement of student pedestrians to and from school. Monitor operation of wink-o-matic school flashing lights during opening and closing times and report any malfunctions. Report hazardous traffic conditions at student crossing locations.

## **What qualifications do you need?**

High school graduation or a G.E.D. issued by a state department of education. Knowledge of traffic regulations; ability and willingness to work in inclement weather; ability to work with children; ability to follow written and oral instructions; tact and courtesy.

Applicants should be able to pass a medical exam provided by the Occupational Health Center. They must satisfactorily complete a criminal background check.

**Benefits:** Uniforms and training are provided. Employees are able to participate in a retirement program; they earn annual and sick leave according to hours worked (minimum of 1 hour per pay period); they are reimbursed for mileage and afforded the option of enrolling in a health plan if they have more than two crossings.

**How do you apply?** You can get an application at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police) or from the Mount Vernon District Police Station. You can also contact Sgt. Clifford Armstrong at the Mount Vernon station at 703-360-8400 ext 5055 or email [Clifford.Armstrong@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Clifford.Armstrong@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Pay:** \$12.43 to \$20.72/hour

**COME JOIN OUR TEAM**



**CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED IN  
YOUR COMMUNITY**

**THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
IS SEEKING QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE  
POSITION OF SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD**





Neighborhoods throughout Fairfax County are invited to join with thousands of communities nationwide on Tuesday, August 5th, to participate in the 25th Annual National Night Out.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support and participation in crime prevention efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations

Send the message that your neighborhood is a safe place to live

National Night Out is a great opportunity for citizens, law enforcement and other public safety officials to join forces. Events are planned to promote crime prevention and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen the police - community partnership. We encourage neighborhoods to come together and send the message that we are all working together to prevent crime and keep our neighborhoods safe. On August 5th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., residents are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, EMS and fire fighters.

Let's make this the best year for National Night Out by getting your neighbors out to participate in this great event.

For free registration material call 1-800-Nite-Out or visit National Night Out website at [www.nationalnightout.org](http://www.nationalnightout.org).

Please contact the Mount Vernon District Police Crime Prevention Unit for information about the event or to register for National Night Out. Contact MPO Robbie Clift at 703-360-8400 ext 2259 or email [Robert.clift@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Robert.clift@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Please look at the next page to get activity ideas for your National Night Out event.



# National Night Out activity ideas

## Simple refreshments

- Bring your favorite snack
- Coffee, tea, and dessert
- Cookie exchange
- Fruit and cheese plates
- Hot dogs and brats
- Ice cream cones/make your own sundaes
- Lemonade and cookies
- Mini-donut stand
- Popcorn
- Potluck
- Pretzels and pop
- Root beer floats
- Watermelon

## Group conversations/mixers

- “Neighbor of the year” award
- Block e-mail list
- Block history stories
- Find block leader and McGruff volunteers
- Have an ice breaker
- Interview politicians running for office
- Neighbor trivia game w/prizes for right answers
- Photos from past block parties and activities
- Share ideas and accomplishments on the block
- Skill swap
- Talk about area crime concerns and keeping an eye on each other’s houses
- Update block list for people and pets

- Update block contact list
- Welcome new residents

## Activities for youth

- Bicycle parade/rodeo
- Chalk art
- Coloring/maze sheet
- Dime/penny guess
- Duck pond
- Face painting
- Games
- Kiddie jump (“moon walk”)
- Make a banner or mural
- Piñata
- Riding bikes in streets
- Scavenger hunt
- Skits
- Talent show

## All-ages activities

- Book exchange
- Book swap
- Build a milk carton boat for Aquatennial
- Cake walk
- Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc.
- Dance
- Lawn mower beauty contest w/parade
- Ring toss contest
- Live music
- Movies
- Organize a book club
- Paint an old car with water colors
- Parade
- Plant exchange
- Prizes

- Races: minnow; cotton ball on a spoon
- Recognize kids’ accomplishments
- Scavenger hunt
- Sing-along/karaoke
- Soccer
- Storytelling (truth or fiction)
- Street dance
- Talent show
- Tour the gardens on the block
- Volleyball
- Water balloon fights
- Water balloon toss contest
- Welcome new neighbors
- White elephant exchange

## Contribute to your community

- Beautify a common area
- Collect for a food shelf
- Cover graffiti
- Have a sign-up sheet for Operation Identification
- Nominate a block club or an individual for a crime prevention award
- Plan a fall clean-up or bulb planting
- Presentation by an arborist (Dutch elm disease, etc.)
- Recruit a McGruff House volunteer
- Sign all ages up for library cards
- Use e-mail to communicate more with your block club
- Voter registration drive
- Community impact statements or petitions



# 10 Summer Safety Tips

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1. Never leave children unattended in or near the water. Use U.S. Coast Guard approved life vests, also known as personal flotation devices on boats, docks, and around deep or swift water.
2. Make sure children always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or scooter, rollerblading or skateboarding.
3. Protect children from excessive exposure to sun -- especially from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Use a sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.
4. Supervise children whenever they use play equipment such as making sure children stay clear of the front and back of swings while in use.
5. Keep children away from areas where any lawn mowers are being used. Never allow children to ride on mowers.
6. Minimize the risk of bee and insect stings by having children wear shoes and light-colored clothing. Use insect repellent sparingly on older children and never on infants.
7. Know the plants in your yard and teach your child not to pick or eat anything without first checking with an adult. Call the Poison Center if you suspect a poisoning has occurred or to receive a list of poisonous plants.
8. Keep children from playing near barbecues and bonfires and always have water present when fire is involved. Only adults should use lighter fluid.
9. Strap children in a properly-fitting seat belt, car seat or booster seat when traveling by car or airplane.
10. BE SAFE THIS SUMMER AND HAVE FUN!!



# Officer of the Month for May

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On May 10, 2008, Officer Thomas Skowronski and Officer Erin Buckles were dispatched to a domestic dispute at 8573 Richmond Highway. Upon their arrival they met with the complainant who advised them that she came over to her boyfriend's apartment for a surprise visit and found him with another woman. A verbal argument ensued which prompted the call to the Police Department.



Officer Skowronski noticed that there was alcohol in plain sight and questioned the male occupant of the apartment, who was eighteen 18years old, about whether there was any more alcohol in the apartment. The subject advised Officer Skowronski that there was another bottle in his bedroom and they walked into this room. Once inside the bedroom, Officer Skowronski noticed a small amount of marijuana and several pipes in the room. He then requested a consent search of the interior of the room to look for other narcotics and drug paraphernalia, which was denied.

Officer Skowronski then spoke with the female involved in the incident and learned that her boyfriend usually has large amounts of marijuana in the apartment along with cash. Officer Skowronski took it upon himself to delve further into this revelation and determined that the subject is a Mount Vernon High School student who lives at the apartment by himself. Armed with this information, Officer Skowronski contacted his supervisor, Sergeant Robert Blakley, and advised him of the situation. Based on the information Officer Skowronski obtained, a search warrant was obtained and served a short time later. Two 2 pounds of marijuana and \$ 4319 were seized from the apartment. The subject was subsequently charged with Possession With the Intent to Distribute Marijuana as well as other related charges.

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## Major Incidents

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### **ARMED ROBBERY**

North Kings Highway 6200

\*A 38-year-old Manassas man, working as an employee of Colortyme Rent To Own, 6230-F North Kings Highway, was robbed at gunpoint on Saturday, June 7. Shortly after 8 p.m., a man displayed a handgun and demanded money from the employee. The victim handed over an undisclosed amount of cash and was not injured. The suspect fled on foot out the rear of the business. The suspect was described as black, approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing about 200 pounds. He had dark hair, brown eyes and was wearing all dark clothing.

### **ROBBERY/ARREST**

Fairchild Drive 7200

Police arrested a 20-year-old Woodbridge man for stealing the cell phone of an acquaintance, a 28-year-old Alexandria-area woman. They were in her apartment in the 7200 block of Fairchild Drive on Thursday, June 5 just after midnight when he allegedly grabbed the cell phone out of the victim's hand. She was

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## **Major Incidents continued**

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not injured. Joell Ramirez Peveria, of 1906 Warren Drive, was arrested and taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with robbery.

### **ROBBERY**

#### Richmond Highway/Russell Road

On Thursday, June 5 just before midnight, police responded to Inova Mount Vernon Hospital for a 31-year-old Washington, D.C. man who was being treated for minor injuries sustained during a reported robbery. The victim was driving a car with a 19-year-old Alexandria-area woman in the passenger seat. Two men approached the car as it was at a stop light on Richmond Highway at Russell Road. One suspect reached in the passenger side and stole the woman's purse while the second suspect went to the driver's side and pulled the man out of the car. Both suspects assaulted him and stole his wallet then fled. The victim drove himself to the hospital. The suspects were described as black, both wearing black jackets and black masks.

#### North Kings Highway 5800

A 48-year-old Herndon-area man was assaulted and robbed Monday morning after giving another man a ride home. The victim drove the suspect to the 5800 block of North Kings Highway around 3:45 a.m. on June 9. The two men exited the car and walked down a path where the suspect struck the victim, knocking him to the ground. The suspect demanded money and after a brief struggle the victim complied. The suspect fled in an unknown direction. The victim had minor injuries. The suspect was described as white, 30 to 35 years old. He was about 5 feet 11 inches tall and 140 pounds with short blond hair. He was wearing a white shirt and blue jeans.

#### Lockheed Boulevard 3100

On Monday, June 9 around 11 p.m., a 28-year-old Alexandria-area man was assaulted and robbed near the intersection of Lockheed Boulevard and Fordson Road. The victim exited the 7-Eleven store and headed west on Lockheed when he was approached by approximately eight black men. One of the men knocked the victim to the ground, then kicked and punched him. The suspect went through the victim's pockets and removed an undisclosed amount of cash. The victim sustained minor injuries. The suspect and the additional men fled on foot. The suspect was described as approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighing about 160 pounds. He had dark hair and a mustache. He wore a gray T-shirt and blue jeans. There was no description of the other men.

### **MALICIOUS WOUNDING**

#### Huntington Avenue 2300

A 27-year-old Kingstowne-area man was injured during a fight on Sunday, June 8. Police were called to the 2300 block of Huntington Avenue at 5:40 p.m. for a fight. Officers located the victim outside and determined he had a wound on the back of his head. An investigation determined the victim had an argument with two men at the shopping center. The suspects assaulted the victim and one suspect cut the victim with a box cutter. Both victims fled when a passerby came to the victim's aid. The victim was transported to Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and treated for minor injuries. The investigation continues.

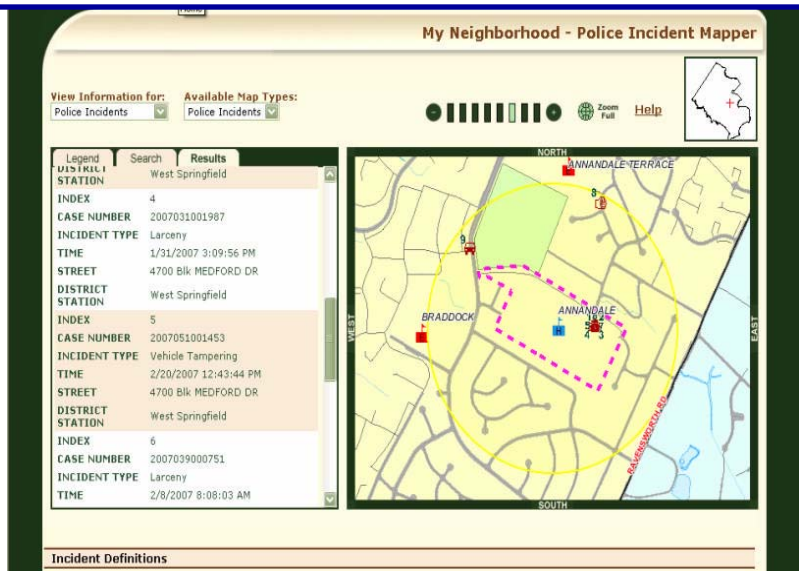
# Police Incident Mapping

In June of 2007 Fairfax County released its My Neighborhood Police Incident Mapping web application to the public, showcasing its capabilities at the Fairfax Fair. The Police Incident Mapping portion of My Neighborhood has brought a visual representation of Fairfax County Police Department response to actual calls for service to the citizens it serves in a timely fashion. Police incident information, displayed on a map and in list format, is originally entered into the County's computer aided dispatch system by the Department of Public Safety Communications (911 call center) and then processed into a format that allows the information to be shown on a map, within 48 hours of the time the incident is reported.

Incidents displayed on the Police Incident Map are presented as symbols placed along the street line segment in a location based on address and reported by the block number. Symbol placement is not exact and should not be associated with the particular address near which it is placed. Some incident types do not appear on the map and others are represented as part of a broad category. This, along with the general placement of symbols, is done to protect the victims. Incident types included in the My Neighborhood Police Incident Mapping application were determined through focus groups held with members of the Fairfax County community with representation from each of the eight police districts and include: Assault, Burglary, Destruction, Drug Offense, Larceny, Noise Violation, Robbery, Peeping, Prowling, Sex Offense, Stolen Vehicle and Vehicle Tampering.

Often when a call taker receives information from a citizen regarding the need for police response the original incident description may vary from what is discovered by responding officers. For instance, if a resident calls to report a stranger seen outside a neighbor's home and suspects that a burglary may be about to happen the call may be initially entered as a possible burglary. When officers arrive and conduct their preliminary investigation they may determine that the stranger was in fact a neighborhood youth who has broken a fence slat. In this example the map would display a destruction symbol rather than a burglary symbol.

By using the incident type associated with responding officer's findings rather than the incident type as perceived by callers the Police Incident Mapping allows users to see the most accurate information available at the time that the call is closed. Users of the site are cautioned to keep this in mind when accessing information appearing on the site. The data represented through My Neighborhood Police Incident Mapping gives the user insight into what is occurring on a given street or area.



Example Search from My Neighborhood Website

# Police Incident Mapping continued

Please visit the My Neighborhood Police Incident Mapping at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police) by clicking on "Incident Mapping" in the "Quick Links" box.

**Fairfax County VIRGINIA**

Living here (Home) - Business - Visiting - Government - Using this Site - Contact us  
Main Site Navigation Header

**Fairfax County Police Department**

you are here: [homepage](#) > [public safety](#) > [police department](#)

**Welcome...**

The Fairfax County Police Department provides law enforcement services to the citizens of Fairfax County by delivering superior police services and by building community partnerships.

**Colonel David M. Rohrer**  
Chief of Police

**Overview**  
[Community Policing](#)  
[Crime Information](#)  
[Crime Prevention](#)  
[Emergency Management](#)  
[Employment](#)  
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**Thanks to everyone who made the 2007 National Night Out a success!**

**For Emergencies Call 911**

**Out-of-Area Emergency Call 703-691-2233**

**For Non-Emergencies Call 703-691-2131**

**For Crime Solvers Call 703-691-8888 or 1-866-411-TIPS**

**For other contact information, visit the contact us section.**

To learn more about our department we invite you to click on any of the items listed to the left.

We are currently in the process of renovating our website. We'd like to hear your comments. Please [contact the web administrator](#) with your suggestions.

**Quick Links**

- [About Identity Theft](#)
- [Bias Crime Brochures](#)
- [Compliment / Complaint](#)
- [Criminal Justice Academy](#)
- [Citizens Police Academy](#)
- [Incident Mapping](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [News Releases](#)
- [Youthful Driver Program](#)
- [Youth Gangs](#)

**Reports & Records**

- [Accident Photograph](#)
- [File Aggressive Driving or Unbuckled Child Report](#)
- [File Police Report](#)

## Incident Definitions

	<b>Assault</b>	Unwanted touching by one person upon another with the intent to inflict harm.
	<b>Burglary</b>	Unlawful entry of a residential or commercial structure to commit another crime such as arson, assault, destruction, larceny, murder, rape or robbery.
	<b>Destruction</b>	Damage to another person's property (excluding vehicles).
	<b>Drug Offense</b>	Distribution, Possession or Possession with the Intent to Distribute narcotics and/or marijuana.
	<b>Larceny</b>	Unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property with the intent to deprive the owner of the item.
	<b>Noise Violation</b>	Any unnecessary noise that interferes with another person's quality of life.
	<b>Robbery</b>	Confrontation where suspect takes or attempts to take anything of value from a person or persons by force, threat of force or violence and/or intimidation if the victim does not comply.
	<b>Peeping</b>	Peering into a residence, not one's own, while on private property.
	<b>Prowling</b>	A person roaming an area with unlawful intentions.
	<b>Sex Offense</b>	Offense of a sexual nature; includes (but not limited to) indecent exposure, rape, and sexual battery.
	<b>Stolen Vehicle / Recovered Stolen Vehicle</b>	Theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle/Recovery of a motor vehicle previously reported stolen.
	<b>Vehicle Tampering</b>	The act of committing damage to a vehicle belonging to another person without the owner's consent.





**Mount Vernon Citizens  
Advisory Committee  
Fairfax County Police  
Department**

**Mount Vernon District Station  
2511 Parkers Lane**

**Alexandria, Virginia 22306**

**Station Phone Number: 703-360-8400**

**Crime Prevention: 703-360-8928**

**Email: [mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov)**

**Non-Emergency—703-691-2131**

**EMERGENCY—911**

***Making Our Community Safer  
Through Crime Prevention***

**Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee**

*Chairman - Judy Schultheis*

*Vice Chairman - Ginger Krup*

*Treasurer - Marianne Baltimore*

*Secretary - Mary Alvarado*

**Mount Vernon District Station**

*Station Commander - Captain Michael Kline*

*Assistant Commander - Lieutenant Dave Russell*

*Crime Prevention Officer - Robbie Clift*

*Crime Prevention Officer - Daryl Davis*

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Call 703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2664

**A Fairfax County, Va., publication**

**Remember, for Non-Emergency events or reports, call  
703-691-2131**

The Mount Vernon Citizen's Advisory Committee's monthly meeting will reconvene September 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon District Station.

The topic for the September 9th meeting will be on Police Service Areas (PSA) and the speakers will be the supervisors in charge of the PSA.

